

Public Higher Education

Expenditures by Program	FY2024 Actual	FY2025 Enacted	FY2025 Revised	Change from Enacted		FY2026 Governor	Change from Enacted	
Office of the Postsecondary Commissioner	\$49.9	\$51.8	\$63.2	\$11.4	22.0%	\$56.3	\$4.5	8.7%
University of Rhode Island	957.7	1,018.0	1,058.2	40.2	4.0%	1,108.7	90.8	8.9%
Rhode Island College	195.8	205.1	225.8	20.7	10.1%	216.4	11.3	5.5%
Community College of R.I.	172.9	195.9	207.3	11.3	5.8%	212.7	16.8	8.5%
Total	\$1,376.3	\$1,470.8	\$1,554.5	\$83.7	5.7%	\$1,594.1	\$123.3	8.4%

Expenditures by Program	FY2024 Actual	FY2025 Enacted	FY2025 Revised	Change from Enacted		FY2026 Governor	Change from Enacted	
General Revenue	\$309.81	\$314.51	\$315.87	\$1.36	0.4%	\$329.1	\$14.6	4.6%
Federal Funds	12.0	6.0	17.8	11.8	197.6%	5.6	(0.3)	-5.7%
Restricted Receipts	7.4	8.7	8.9	0.2	2.6%	9.3	0.7	7.7%
Other Funds	1,047.1	1,141.7	1,211.9	70.3	6.2%	1,250.1	108.4	9.5%
Total	\$1,376.3	\$1,470.8	\$1,554.5	\$83.7	5.7%	\$1,594.1	\$123.3	8.4%

Third Party Funded FTE	523.8	519.8	519.8	-	-	519.8	-	-
Authorized FTE Levels	3,863.5	3,874.5	3,874.5	-	-	3,895.5	21.0	0.5%

Total

\$ in millions. Totals may vary due to rounding.

Prior to January 1, 2013, higher education in Rhode Island functioned under the direction of the Board of Governors for Higher Education. The FY2013 Budget as Enacted established a new Board of Education consisting of 11 members, appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Senate. The Board of Governors for Higher Education and the Board of Regents for Elementary and Secondary Education were abolished as of January 1, 2013.

The major responsibilities of the Board of Education (Board), pertaining to higher education, include the governance of public institutions of higher learning and the regulation of proprietary schools; the preparation of a public higher education budget and capital development program; and the development of policies in pursuit of the primary goals of excellence, opportunity and access, diversity and responsiveness, coordination and accountability in public higher education.

The system of public higher education consists of three major institutions located at eight different campuses across the State of Rhode Island: The University of Rhode Island (URI), Rhode Island College (RIC), and the Community College of Rhode Island (CCRI).

The FY2015 Budget as Enacted established the Council on Postsecondary Education, which has duties and responsibilities per RIGL 16-59-1 and 16-59-4, much the same as the former Board of Governors for Higher Education. Article 9 of the FY2020 Budget as Enacted shifted oversight of the University of Rhode Island from the Board of Education, Council of Postsecondary Education (Council), and the Commissioner of Postsecondary Education to a newly established Board of Trustees (URI Board) at the University. The article further transferred all the duties and responsibilities pertaining to employees, debt service, and property from the Council to the Board.

MAJOR ISSUES AND TRENDS

The FY2026 Budget includes total funding of \$1,594.1 million, representing a net increase of \$123.3 million (8.4 percent) from the FY2025 Budget as Enacted, including a general revenue increase of \$14.6 million (4.6 percent). The general revenue increase is driven primarily by the addition of \$2.1 million for Rhode Island Colleges Hope Scholarship, \$958,645 for the Rhode Island Promise Scholarship, \$600,000 for the Dual and Concurrent Enrollment scholarship. The Budget also includes \$1.3 million to support

career readiness and \$800,000 to support apprenticeship programs at CCRI. Remaining general revenue increases are driven by rising operating and personnel costs within the institutions.

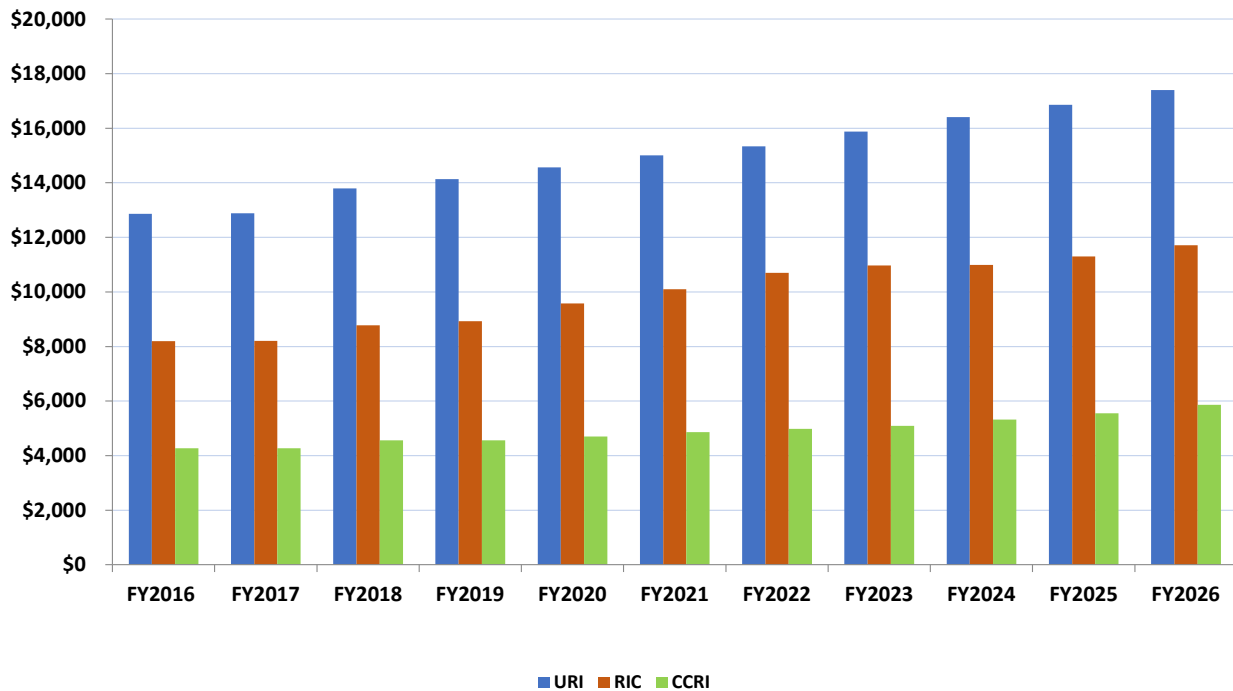
The net decrease of \$340,424 (5.7 percent) in federal funds is attributable to the discontinuation of \$1.0 million ARPA SFRF funds that supported the RIC DCYF Foster Care Youth Scholarships.

The \$109.1 million (17.2 percent) increase in other funds and restricted receipts is due primarily to an increase in tuition and fees at all three institutions, as well as an increase RICAP funds. Increases include \$25.4 million in tuition at URI, \$5.9 million for tuition at RIC, and \$3.9 million for tuition at CCRI. There is a net increase of \$25.6 million in RICAP funding for all institutions. More information on these projects is provided in the “*Capital Projects*” and “*Tuition & Fees*” sections of this analysis. The remaining increase is attributable to increases in auxiliary services, which are self-funded services such as dining halls and book stores; the Budget estimates an addition \$17.1 million for CCRI, \$13.3 for RIC, and \$52.7 million for URI.

Tuition and Fees

Actual tuition and fee rates, by institution, along with a projection for FY2025 and FY2026, are shown in the following graph and table.

In-State Undergraduate Tuition & Fees



URI	FY2025	FY2025	FY2026	Change from FY2025		FY2026	Change from FY2025	
	Enacted	Revised	Request	Enacted		Recommended	Enacted	
In-State Tuition	\$14,630	\$14,630	\$15,076	\$446	3.0%	\$15,076	\$446	3.0%
Out-of-State Tuition	34,834	34,834	35,896	\$1,062	3.0%	35,896	\$1,062	3.0%
Mandatory Fees	2,312	2,312	2,328	\$16	0.7%	2,328	\$16	0.7%
Tuition & Fee Revenue	\$414,431,621	\$414,431,621	\$422,503,802	\$8,072,181	1.9%	\$439,784,410	\$25,352,789	6.1%
URI Enrollment								
In-State	6,791	6,834	6,850	59	0.9%	6,850	59	0.9%
Out-of-State	7,829	7,947	7,773	(56)	-0.7%	7,773	(56)	-0.7%
Graduate Resident Assistants	228	228	-	(228)	-100.0%	-	228	-100.0%
RIC								
In-State Tuition	\$9,765	\$9,756	\$10,107	\$342	3.5%	\$10,107	\$342	3.5%
Out-of-State Tuition	25,764	25,764	26,666	902	3.5%	26,666	902	3.5%
Northeast Neighbors Program	14,648	14,648	15,160	512	3.5%	15,160	512	3.5%
Mandatory Fees	1,535	1,535	1,602	67	4.4%	1,602	67	4.4%
Tuition & Fee Revenue	\$66,095,437	\$65,339,270	\$70,708,888	\$4,613,451	7.0%	\$72,017,654	\$5,922,217	9.0%
RIC Enrollment								
In-State	4,278	4,445	4,613	335	7.8%	4,613	335	7.8%
Out-of-State	750	813	809	59	7.9%	809	59	7.9%
CCRI								
In-State Tuition	\$5,074	\$5,074	\$5,374	\$300	5.9%	\$5,374	\$300	5.9%
Out-of-State Tuition	14,358	14,358	15,206	848	5.9%	15,206	\$848	5.9%
Mandatory Fees	476	476	494	18	3.8%	494	\$18	3.8%
Tuition & Fee Revenue	\$58,965,800	\$61,432,167	\$63,430,565	\$4,464,765	7.6%	\$62,827,746	\$3,861,946	6.5%
CCRI Enrollment								
Total	7,698	7,679	7,679	(19)	-0.2%	7,679	(19)	-0.2%

The University of Rhode Island's FY2026 requested budget projects a \$8.1 million (1.9%) increase from the FY2025 Budget as Enacted, attributable to the \$446 (3.0%) increase to instate tuition and \$1,062 (3.0%) increase to out of state tuition. Including Graduate Resident Assistants, the University estimates a net 225 decrease in FTE students. However, the Governor's FY2026 recommended budget includes a \$25.4 million increase to tuition and fees, \$17.3 million more than requested, while maintaining the Board of Trustees estimated tuition and FTE changes. The University is unaware of any additional revenue streams driving the projection. The University's FY2024 pre-audit numbers for tuition and fee revenue is \$396.0 million, and the FY2025 Revised projection is \$414.4 million, about \$25.4 million less than the Governor's FY2026 projection.

Rhode Island College's FY2026 requested budget projects a \$4.6 (7.0%) million increase from the FY2025 Budget as Enacted, attributable to the \$342 increase to instate tuition (3.5%), and \$902 (3.5%) increase to out of state tuition. The College predicts a net FTE enrollment increase of 335 in state students (7.8%), and 59 out of state students (7.9%). However, the Governor's recommended budget includes \$5.9 million in tuition and fee revenue, \$1.3 million more than requested, while maintaining the Board of Education's estimated tuition and fee changes. The Governor's Budget does not include any directives to change tuition and fees. RIC's FY2024 Pre-audited numbers for tuition and fee revenue is \$60.6 million, and the revised FY2025 projection is \$65.3 million, about \$6.7 million less than the Governors FY2026 projection.

The Community College of Rhode Island's FY2026 requested budget projects a \$908,542 (1.5%) increase from the FY2025 Budget as Enacted, attributable to \$300 (5.9%) increase to instate tuition, and \$848 (5.9%) increase to out of state tuition. The College predicts a net FTE decrease of 19.0 students (-0.2%). However, the Governor's recommended budget includes \$3.9 million in tuition and fee revenue, a increase of \$2.9 million than requested, while maintaining the Board of Education's estimated tuition and fee changes. The Governor's Budget does not include any directives to change tuition and fees. CCRI's FY2024 pre-audited numbers for tuition and fee revenue is \$55.2 million, and the revised projection is \$57.1 million, \$5.8 million less than the Governors FY2026 projection.

State Support for Public Education

When looking at state support for public higher education, many policy makers tend to take a regional approach. For example, if looking at New England, Rhode Island has the third lowest appropriation per pupil in the region. In FY2023, the most recent data available, Connecticut appropriated \$7,962 more per student FTE than Rhode Island and Massachusetts appropriated \$5,072 more. Based on Rhode Island’s FY2023 FTE enrollment of 28,491, the difference in per-student FTE appropriation between Rhode Island and Massachusetts is \$144.5 million.

However, on a national perspective in FY2023, the District of Columbia appropriated \$18,934 more per student FTE than Rhode Island. The chart that follows is from the State Higher Education Executive Officers Association (SHEEO) and illustrates state 2023 appropriations to public higher education based on student FTEs. The State of Rhode Island appropriates \$4,140 less per student than the national average.

The previous funding comparisons are not inclusive of Capital Investments. According to the State Higher Education Executive Officers Association (SHEEO), Rhode Island appropriated a total of \$68.2 million in capital appropriations, ranking third behind Connecticut and Massachusetts, and spending \$24.3 million less than the regional average. In FY2023, Rhode Island spend \$85.5 million less in capital appropriations than Massachusetts and \$235.1 million less than Connecticut.

In FY2025, the three state institutions requested a \$85.8 million increase in State general revenue support, excluding general obligation debt service. The Budget provides \$10.7 million in additional funding, excluding general obligation debt service.

FY2023 State Educational Appropriations per FTE

Connecticut	\$14,862
Massachusetts	11,972
Maine	9,453
Rhode Island	6,900
Vermont	5,649
New Hampshire	3,990
Regional Average	\$8,804

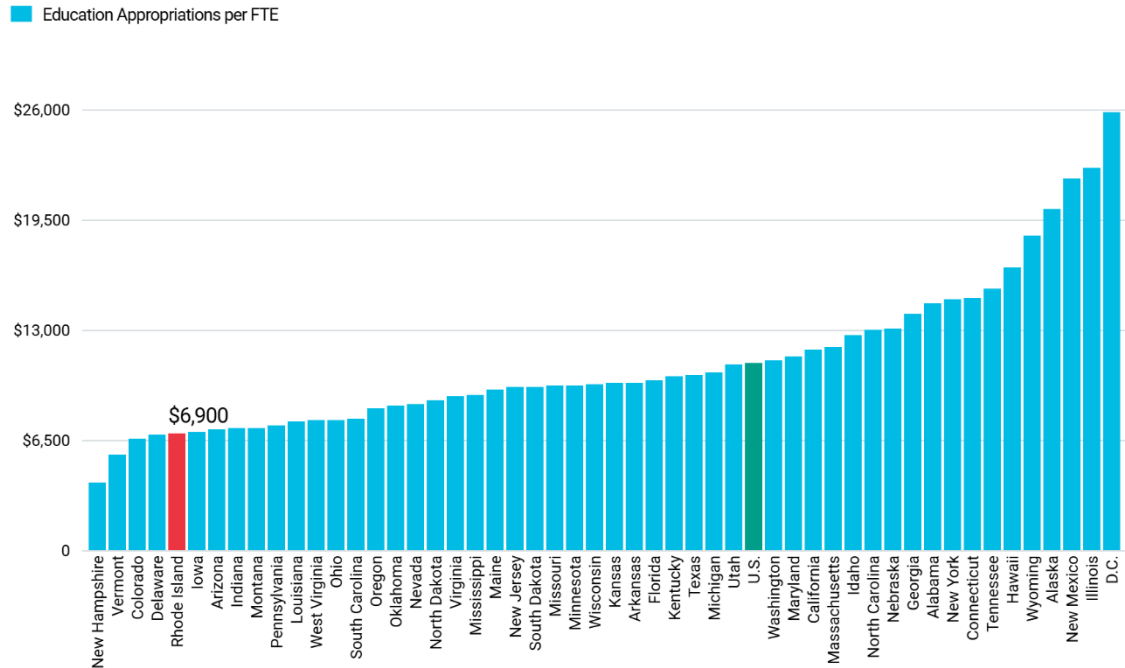
Source: State Higher Education Executive Officers (SHEEO)

FY2023 Capital Appropriations

Connecticut	\$303,300,290
Massachusetts	153,694,415
Rhode Island	68,218,400
Maine	15,767,950
New Hampshire	8,926,933
Vermont	5,200,000
Regional Average	\$92,517,998

Source: State Higher Education Executive Officers (SHEEO)

Public Higher Education Appropriations per FTE by State, FY 2023 (Adjusted)



Notes:

1. Education appropriations are a measure of state and local support available for public higher education operating expenses and student financial aid, excluding appropriations for research, hospitals, and medical education. Education appropriations include federal stimulus funding.
2. The U.S. calculation does not include the District of Columbia.
3. Each year, approximately one-third of education appropriations in Illinois go toward the state's retirement pension system. See the Illinois State Spotlight for more details.
4. Constant 2023 dollars adjusted by the Higher Education Cost Adjustment (HECA).
5. Adjusted to account for interstate differences using the Enrollment Mix Index (EMI).
6. Adjusted to account for interstate differences using the Cost of Living Index (COLI). The COLI is not a measure of inflation over time.

Source(s): State Higher Education Executive Officers Association

OFFICE OF THE POSTSECONDARY COMMISSIONER

Expenditures By Source	FY2025 Enacted	FY2025 Revised	Change from Enacted		FY2026 Governor	Change from Enacted	
General Revenue	\$30.1	\$30.8	\$0.7	2.2%	\$34.3	\$4.2	14.0%
Federal Funds	6.0	17.8	11.8	197.6%	5.6	(0.3)	-5.7%
Restricted Receipts	7.9	8.0	0.1	1.4%	8.4	0.5	6.7%
Other Funds	7.8	6.7	(1.2)	-14.9%	7.9	0.1	1.0%
Total	\$51.8	\$63.2	\$11.4	22.0%	\$56.3	\$4.5	8.7%

\$ in millions

The mission of the Office of the Postsecondary Commissioner (OPC), formerly the Office of Higher Education, is to support the work of the Board of Education and the Council on Postsecondary Education in providing an excellent, accessible, and affordable system of higher education designed to improve the educational attainment of Rhode Island citizens, support economic development, and enrich the civic, social, and cultural life of the residents of the State. The Commissioner works with the presidents of the state higher education institutions to determine the benefits or disadvantages of proposed new programs, departments, courses of study, and policies with the scope and role adopted by the Council on Postsecondary Education. The OPC also supports specific programs, such as early college access and veterans' affairs. The FY2016 Budget as Enacted created a new Division of Higher Education Assistance

(DHEA) within the Office of the Postsecondary Commissioner and eliminated the Rhode Island Higher Education Assistance Authority. The OPC provides research, policy, and fiscal analysis, and seeks to ensure that higher education in Rhode Island remains economically and geographically accessible.

The Budget provides 47.0 FTE positions for the OPC in FY2026, including 1.0 FTE that is third-party funded. This represents an increase of 2.0 FTE positions from the FY2025 Budget as Enacted. The increase is due to the addition of 2.0 FTE positions for the Governor’s Rhode to Prosperity initiative where the Office collaborates with the Department of Labor and Training to enhance workforce development and postsecondary education to improve the overall housing, health, and economic outcomes for Rhode Islanders. In addition to collaboration, the initiative includes an integrated data system, which will require 2.0 FTEs from the Office, 1.0 Senior Data Engineer, and 1.0 Research Associate IV. Of the 45.0 positions provided, 11.0 are available only for the State’s Higher Education Centers located in Woonsocket and Westerly, and 10.0 for the Nursing Education Center.

Office of the Postsecondary Commissioner	General Revenue
FY2025 Enacted	\$30,122,180
<i>Target and Other Adjustments</i>	
	<i>(953)</i>
Hope Scholarship	2,101,223
Rhode Island Promise Scholarship Program	958,645
Dual and Concurrent Enrollment	600,000
Personnel Adjustments (statewide adjustments)	305,538
OPC COLA	244,167
Assistant Commissioner, HR & Labor Relations	(238,674)
Rhode to Prosperity	200,000
Last Dollar (Promise I) Scholarship	100,000
Community Service Objective Grants	(50,000)
FY2026 Governor	\$34,342,126

Central Management	Other Fund Changes
ARPA SFRF DCYF Foster Care Youth Scholarship	(\$1,021,859)
Gaining Awareness for Undergrad Program (federal funds)	500,250
Integrated Data System (restricted receipts)	271,191
Higher Education and Industry Centers (restricted receipts)	257,441
NEC Operating URI & RIC (other funds)	175,132
Longitudinal Data System (federal funds)	129,425

Hope Scholarship **\$2.1 million**

In an effort to increase the number of students enrolling and completing four-year degrees and certificates on time, Article 8 of the FY2024 Enacted Budget established the Hope Scholarship Pilot program. The pilot program began with students who enroll in Rhode Island College (RIC) in the fall of 2023 and students enrolled in RIC as of July 1, 2021, who have attained junior status as of July 1, 2023. Students who enrolled as of July 1, 2022, and have attained junior status at RIC as of July 1, 2024 are also eligible if they follow the other requirements such as credit attainment and grade point average.

The scholarship covers the cost of up to two years of tuition and mandatory fees for the junior and senior years of the student, or for adult students who have attained at least 60 credit hours. While the eligibility requirements are very similar to the Promise II Scholarship program at the Community College of Rhode Island, students cannot receive an award under both programs. The Budget includes \$3.3 million in general revenue for this program in FY2025 and \$5.5 million in FY2026.

The scholarship is modeled after the Rhode Island Promise Scholarship and requires the timely accrual of credit hours and grade point average of 2.5 or greater; however, the Hope Scholarship is available to adult students and allows for the completion of the necessary 60 credit hours over four years, instead of two. While not defined within the statute, RIGL 16-112, adult students are generally 25 years of age and older.

The Article requires annual reporting, as with the Rhode Island Promise Scholarship program, beginning in November 2023. The reports project the cost of the program for the current and following fiscal year and are submitted to the Office of Management and Budget, the State Budget Officer, the House Fiscal Advisor, the Senate Fiscal Advisor, the Commissioner of Postsecondary Education, and the Chair of the Council on Postsecondary Education. A report evaluating the program will be submitted annually on or before July 1 to the Governor, the Speaker of the House, and the President of the Senate.

The Council on Postsecondary Education is authorized to promulgate rules and regulations for the program, while RIC will establish appeal procedures for the award, denial, or revocation of scholarship funding. The Hope Scholarship program began on July 1, 2023, and sunsets on July 1, 2028, unless further action is taken by the General Assembly.

Rhode Island Promise Scholarship Program ***\$958,645***

The Budget includes \$8.3 million in general revenue, an increase of \$958,645, to fund the Rhode Island Promise Scholarship program (RI Promise). Article 3 of the FY2018 Budget established the program to provide students with two years of tuition and mandatory fees at the Community College of Rhode Island (CCRI), less federal and all other financial aid available to the recipient. The increase is due to updated enrollment projections for the 2025-2026 school year. The program was scheduled to sunset with the high school graduating class of 2021; however, 2021-S-0079 Sub A eliminated the sunset and made the program permanent.

Dual and Concurrent Enrollment ***\$600,000***

The Budget shifts \$2.9 million in Rhode Island Student Loan Authority reserve funds to general revenue, to support the dual enrollment initiative, as all funds that previously supported this program are exhausted or insufficient.

Pursuant to RIGL 16-100, Rhode Island began offering the Dual Enrollment program, which allows students to take college courses to earn credits at both secondary and higher education institutions. In 2015, the Board of Education adopted provisions that ensure that all Rhode Island high school student have the opportunity to access college level work while still in high school. All three of the State institutions offer dual enrollment courses.

According to a study conducted by the Education Commission of the States (ECS), dual enrollment programs have been proven to positively impact prospective students by preparing them to meet and maintain college readiness benchmarks. Students who are dually enrolled maintain higher GPAs, are more likely to enter college after high school graduation, and complete an undergraduate degree within four to six years. Dual enrollment also increases second year retention rates.

OPC Cost of Living Adjustment ***\$244,167***

Based on recently negotiated contract bargaining agreements between the State and the state employee bargaining units for a proposed 3-year contract, the Budget includes a 4.0 percent cost-of-living adjustments (COLAs). The current agreement is projected to increase general revenue expenditures by \$244,167 in FY2026 within the office.

Analyst Note: The Office's Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) was inadvertently omitted from the statewide adjustments. The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) included the COLA's in the Office's budget, rather than recalculating statewide adjustments.

Assistance Commissioner, HR and Labor Relations**(\$238,674)**

The Budget proposes a general revenue decrease of \$238,674, which represents a reimbursement from RIC and CCRI to cover a portion of the salary and benefits for the Assistant Commissioner position. Historically, the University of Rhode Island and the Council on Postsecondary Education maintained a shared service agreement, with URI's Assistant Vice President of Human Resources fulfilling the Council's labor relations role. However, the creation of the URI Board of Trustees has doubled the VP's workload, resulting in the termination of the shared service agreement. OPC has re-established the full-time labor relations function and expanded the role to Assistant Commissioner. This position serves as an advisor to the Council and Presidents of CCRI and RIC on all matters related to human resources and labor relations.

Rhode to Prosperity**\$200,000**

The Budget includes a \$200,000 general revenue increase to support the Rhode to Prosperity Initiative, which enhances partnerships with business leaders, labor groups, institutes of higher education, and government, to better coordinate existing programs, and identify new initiatives to improve the economic, housing, and health outcomes for all Rhode Islanders. The initiative will require an additional 2.0 FTE positions which are funded entirely through restricted receipts:

- Research Associate, Data Analyst IV: (\$121,238)
- Senior Data Engineer: (\$129,085)

Last Dollar (Promise I) Scholarship Fund Source**\$100,000**

The Budget recommends \$249,567 in reserve spending, including \$100,000 in general revenue, used for college scholarships from the Division of Higher Education Assistance (DHEA) to general revenue, level with FY2025 Enacted projections. Shifting scholarship funding to general revenue will provide full funding to programs in FY2026. Based on current projections, however, there will not be sufficient funding for the Dual/Concurrent Enrollment program and the RI Last Dollar (Promise I Need-Based) Scholarship program in FY2026. The FY2026 recommended budget includes a \$5.6 million transfer from the Rhode Island Student Loan Authority Reserves, \$2.7million in FY2025, and \$2.9 million in FY2026.

**Office of the Postsecondary Commissioner
Projection of DHEA Revenues/Expenses for FY2024 through FY2027**

Revenues	FY2024 Actual	FY2025 Projected	FY2026 Projected	FY2027 Projected
Reserves ¹	\$3,388,915	\$2,323,587	\$249,567	\$89,567
General Revenue Transfer	-	\$642,700		
CollegeBound Fund Fees (from Treasurer)	3,972,623	3,300,000	3,300,000	3,100,000
Total	\$7,361,538	\$6,266,287	\$3,549,567	\$3,189,567
Expenditures				
Promise 1 Scholarship	(\$2,371,538)	(\$5,932,462)	(\$3,400,000)	(\$3,100,000)
Due to Institutions ³	-			
Dual/Concurrent Enrollment (CollegeBound Fees) ²	(2,598,574)			-
Personnel Expenses (DHEA Reserves)	(67,839)	(84,258)	(60,000)	(60,000)
Total	(\$5,037,951)	(\$6,016,720)	(\$3,460,000)	(\$3,160,000)
Ending Balance	\$2,323,587	\$249,567	\$89,567	\$29,567

Source: Reserves and expenditure projections from OPC and the FY2025 database. CollegeBound Fee projections from the General

¹ Any unused CollegeBound fund fee revenue is deposited into the Reserves account for future use. FY2024 balance as provided by OPC on

² The FY2026 Budget assumes that Dual Enrollment will be funded by General Revenue

³ The FY2024 Budget includes payments due to Institutions of Higher Education

* The FY2023 Budget as Enacted provided a one-time \$9.6 million infusion of general revenue

On December 6, 2017, the Council on Postsecondary Education voted to authorize the Commissioner to transfer the Federal Family Education Loan Portfolio to the United States Department of Education. The transfer was completed in FY2018; consequently, the Division of Higher Education Assistance (DHEA) no longer receives any guaranty agency fee revenues. Without the revenues, the reserves balance declines and will be exhausted in FY2025. Pursuant to RIGL 16-57-6.1(b) and 16-56-6, CollegeBound Fund fees must be used for need-based grant programs; thereby limiting the use of these funds. Additionally, revenues from the CollegeBound fund are expected to decline due to the raising average age of participants and smaller contributions. The revenues are based on the amount of assets under management.

As the average age of the participants increases and participants enter college, they will withdraw assets. Furthermore, the new, younger participants are not joining in the numbers needed to offset withdrawals, and these new participants are generally making smaller contributions to their savings plans. Historically generating about \$6.0 million annually, the General Treasurer projects revenue at \$6.3 million in FY2025, and \$3.5 million in FY2026.

Community Service Objective Grants ***(\$50,000)***

The Budget includes a \$50,000 general revenue decrease for legislative grants, reducing funding for the Rhode Island School for Progressive Education from \$200,000 to \$100,000, and adding a new \$50,000 grant for College Visions, a program that empowers low-income and first-generation college students to achieve higher education through college planning and advising.

ARPA SFRF DCYF Foster Care Youth Scholarship (federal funds) ***(\$1.0 million)***

The Budget includes a \$1.0 million federal funds decrease to reflect one-time funding for the foster care youth scholarship, administered by the Rhode Island College Foundation. The FY2025 Enacted Budget allocated State Fiscal Recovery Funds to support a last dollar scholarship program for the Department of Children, Youth, and Families foster care youth exiting the system to attend Rhode Island College. These funds would provide year-round services such as dining, housing, and advising. Funding was awarded to the RIC Foundation to distribute as necessary.

GEAR UP Program ***\$500,250***

The Budget includes a \$500,250 federal fund increase to support Rhode Island's GEAR UP program, which is designed to increase the number of low-income students who are prepared to enter and succeed in postsecondary education. Rhode Island's gear up grant supports the Onward We Learn (OWL) program, formerly known as the College Crusade. OWL has funded 6,000 scholarships to low-income Rhode Island students for over 20 years. According to OWL, a majority of children participating in OWL continue their education and careers in Rhode Island.

Higher Education and Industry Centers (restricted receipts) ***\$257,441***

The Budget includes a \$257,441 restricted receipt increase to support the Westerly and Woonsocket Education and Industry Centers. Of these funds, \$129,108 supports the 4.0 percent cost-of-living adjustment (COLA). The remaining funds support contracted training programs, supplies and expenses, and janitorial services. According to the Office, the center has seen an influx of utilization since it has opened, requiring increased support for the Centers' operations.

NEC Operating – URI & RIC (other funds) ***\$175,132***

The Budget includes a \$175,132 increase in other funds to support the Nursing Education Center. Of these funds, \$65,724 supports the 4.0 percent cost-of-living adjustment (COLA). The remaining funds supports increases to the Center's operating expenditures.

Longitudinal Data System (federal funds) ***\$129,425***

The Budget includes a federal funds increase of \$129,425, which will primarily support part-time legal support and educational policy and research to support the programs work.

UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND

Expenditures By Source	FY2025 Enacted	FY2025 Revised	Change from Enacted		FY2026 Governor	Change from Enacted	
General Revenue	\$144.2	\$144.4	(\$0.2)	-0.1%	\$148.6	\$4.4	3.1%
Other Funds	873.7	913.8	(40.0)	-4.6%	960.1	\$86.3	9.9%
Total	\$1,018.0	\$1,058.2	(\$40.2)	-4.0%	\$1,108.7	\$90.8	8.9%

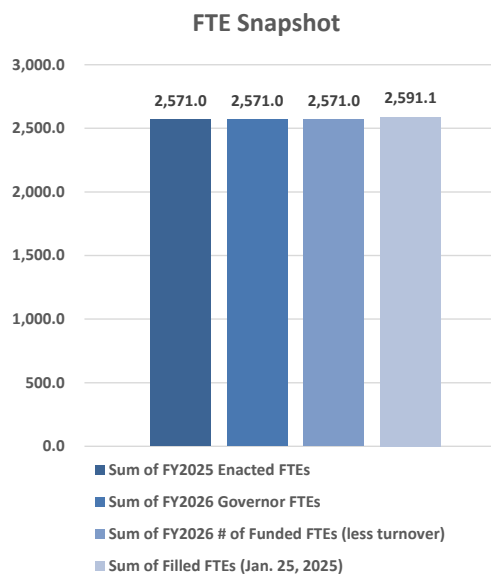
\$ in millions. Totals may vary due to rounding.

The University of Rhode Island (URI) was founded in 1888 as an agricultural school known as the Rhode Island College of Agriculture and Mechanic Arts. The college was actually the second State college established in Rhode Island. The Agricultural Experiment Station building was the first structure on campus, and was built in 1889: the building was later renamed Taft Hall. Today, Taft Hall houses internship, international exchange, and foreign student programs. In 1955, the school became known as the University of Rhode Island.

URI evolved beyond its genesis as a land grant and agricultural school, and today has retained a focus on biological and natural sciences, along with a developing focus on technology in areas such as ocean engineering, chemistry, pharmacy, economics, nursing, and renewable energy. URI has the third oldest continuously operating marine laboratory in the United States, the oldest turfgrass research program in the country, and has implemented green building technology in the expansion and renovation of its facilities. URI provides Bachelor's, Master's, and Doctorate level degrees. URI has four campuses: the 1,250-acre Kingston Campus; the 153-acre Bay Campus in Narragansett; the Providence Campus, located in the Shepard Building on Washington Street in Providence; and, the W. Alton Jones Campus located on 2,300 acres in West Greenwich.

The Budget provides 2,571 FTE positions, including 353.8 positions that are third party funded, consisted with the FY2025 Enacted Budget. The University has exceeded its general FTE cap by 20.0 FTEs and has not met its third-party cap. According to URI, the FTE cap has failed to keep up with enrollment and research growth over the years. URI hired an additional 20.0 FTE's as a result of investments from the State and internal reallocation of resources to support its strategic plan.

The University is exempt from any FTE/hiring oversight, pursuant to RIGL 16-32-2(c), the URI Board of Trustees is the employer of record. This differs from the usual process related to hiring new FTE positions where the Budget Officer and a Budget analyst must approve the requested position prior to posting. The Budget Office checks to make sure the budget can be filled with an agencies FTE cap and budget. The University is not the only State Agency exempt from this process, which includes the General Assembly, Judiciary, General Officers, Higher Ed, and RIDE.



Major Issues and Trends

The URI Board of Trustees requested a 3.6 percent (\$530) increase for in-state tuition and 3.9 percent (\$1,362) increase for out-of-state tuition. There is a net increase in mandatory fees of 0.7 percent (\$16).

In addition to the 3.8 percent increase in tuition and fee revenue, URI requested a general revenue, state appropriation increase of \$35.3 million (32.8 percent relative to the FY2025 Budget as Enacted) excluding general obligation debt service. The increase in state appropriation is to support \$21.6 million in cost increases associated with the current service level and additional \$13.6 million in new initiatives. While approving the tuition and fee increase, the Budget provides a state appropriation increase of \$4.4 million, excluding debt service, for general obligation bonds.

The FY2025 Enacted Budget included \$4.1 million for the University’s operating deficit. While the University’s requested budget reflects a \$5.7 million operating deficit in FY2026, the Board of Trustees decided to utilize \$5.5 million in reserve funds to mitigate the burden of the deficit, resulting in a \$200,000 loss.

University of Rhode Island FY2026 Budget Request			
Increase over FY2025 Budget as Enacted			
Revenue Initiative	Agency Request	FY2026 Governors	Percentage Change
State Appropriation ¹	\$80.5	\$36.8	-54.3%
Tuition and Fees	8.1	25.4	213.6%
All Other	3.2	2.9	-9.4%
Total	\$91.8	\$65.1	-29.1%
Expenditure Initiatives			
Maintain Current Services	\$86.1	\$62.1	-27.9%
Personnel (COLA/Contractual)	24.9	20.1	-19.3%
Operating	10.0	2.5	-75.0%
Student Aid	5.8	4.5	-22.4%
Capital	45.2	34.7	-23.2%
Non GO Debt Service	0.2	0.3	50.0%
FY2025 Operating Deficit	(\$5.7)	(\$3.0)	-47.4%
Use of tuition and fees/misc. revenue	5.7	3.0	
Net Gain/Loss	\$0.0	\$0.0	
New Initiatives	\$13.6	n/a	
Life Sciences Facility	5.3	n/a	n/a
Academic Advisors	2.0	n/a	n/a
Foster an Inclusive Culture	2.3	n/a	n/a
IT Modernization	4.0	n/a	n/a
Total	\$99.7	\$62.1	-37.7%

¹ Excludes G.O. debt service.
Inclusive of all funds. \$ in millions.
Source: University of Rhode Island

For FY2026, URI has requested \$13.6 million in funding for their four strategic initiatives related:

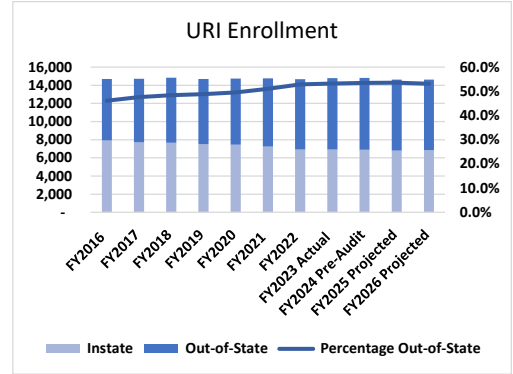
- **Life Sciences Facility:** The University requests funds to broaden its impact on Rhode Island’s life sciences workforce by supporting 20 new faculty.
- **Academic Advisors:** Currently, the URI’s advisor to student ratio is 1:900, which is well above the standard (1:300). These funds would support 20.0 new advisors.
- **Fostering and Inclusive Culture:** These funds would support scholarships for URI’s Talent and Diversity (TD) Program, National Guard, and Tribal programs.
- **IT Modernization:** Funds would support the installation and implementation of the new ERP System, migration to Cloud, audio and visual upgrades, and a change management office.

The Governor does not include funding related to the University’s requests; however, the Budget does include \$874,069 to support the Higher Education Institutions Career Readiness initiative, proposed by the Governor.

- **Higher Education Institution Career Readiness (\$874,069):** The Budget includes \$874,069 in general revenue to support URI’s portion of the Higher Education Institution Career Readiness, which provides funding dedicated to career readiness, career placement, internships, and work-based learning.

Enrollment

In-state enrollment is projected to be 6,850 full-time equivalent students, an increase of 59 students, or 0.9 percent from the FY2025 Budget as Enacted. Out-of-state student enrollment is projected at 7,829 in FY2026, a decrease of 56 student, or 0.7 percent. The projected net enrollment for FY2026 reflects an overall decrease in enrollment of 3 students, 0.02 percent, relative to the FY2025 Budget as Enacted. The FY2025 Revised projection reflects similar trends, with a net decrease of 3 students, 0.02 percent, relative to the FY2025 Enacted level.



University of Rhode Island	General Revenue
FY2025 Enacted	\$144,224,440
<i>Target and Other Adjustments</i>	-
State Appropriation	3,658,556
Higher Education Institution Career Readiness	874,069
General Obligation Debt Service	(137,579)
State Crime Lab	18,437
FY2026 Governor	\$148,637,923

State Appropriation \$4.5 million

The State appropriation for URI increases by \$4.5 million in FY2026 to a total of \$112.5 million, excluding general obligation bond debt service and the State Crime Lab. Of the total increase, \$1.1 million is to support the State’s portion of the 4.0 percent cost of living adjustment (COLA), which is reflected in the University’s settled contracts and act as a place holder for ongoing negotiations. Furthermore, \$874,069 supports the University’s programming relative to career readiness, career placement, internships, and work-based learning; The remaining \$2.7 million supports rising costs for personnel expenditures and centralized services.

Higher Education Institution Career Readiness \$874,069

General Obligation Debt Service (\$137,579)

The Budget includes \$31.6 million in general revenue for general obligation debt service at URI in FY2026. This is a decrease of \$137,579 in FY2026. The FY2025 Revised includes a total of \$31.6 million in FY2025 Revised, consistent with FY2025 Enacted.

	Debt Service					
	FY2025 Enacted	FY2025 Revised	Change from Enacted		FY2026 Governor	Change from Enacted
University of Rhode Island	\$31,664,061	\$31,664,061	-	-	\$31,526,482	(\$137,579) -0.4%
Rhode Island College	8,178,392	8,178,392	-	-	7,933,336	(245,056) -3.0%
Community College of Rhode Island	1,054,709	1,054,709	-	-	1,097,898	43,189 4.1%
Total	\$40,897,162	\$40,897,162	-	-	\$40,557,716	(\$339,446) -0.8%

Source: Rhode Island Budget Office

Crime Lab \$18,437

The Budget provides an increase of \$18,437 in general revenue (\$1.8 million total) for the State Crime Lab for target and other adjustments, consistent with the requested budget.

RHODE ISLAND COLLEGE (RIC)

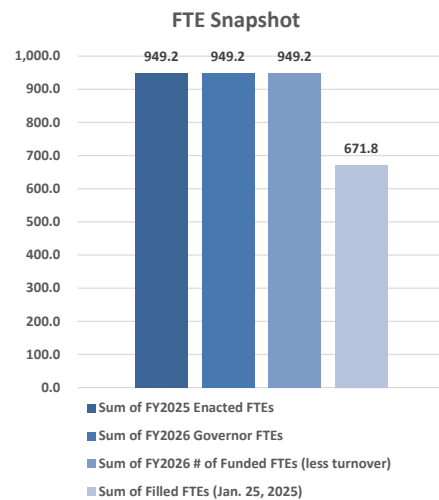
Expenditures By Source	FY2025 Enacted	FY2025 Revised	Change from Enacted		FY2026 Enacted	Change from Enacted	
General Revenue	\$77.9	\$78.2	\$0.3	0.3%	\$80.4	\$2.6	3.3%
Other Funds	127.3	147.7	20.4	16.0%	136.0	8.7	6.9%
Total	\$205.1	\$225.8	\$20.7	10.1%	\$216.4	\$11.3	5.5%

\$ in millions. Totals may vary due to rounding.

Rhode Island College (RIC) was established in 1854 as the Rhode Island State Normal School, with the mission of providing teacher preparation to Rhode Island residents. In 1959, RIC moved to its current campus location on 180 acres off of Mount Pleasant Avenue in Providence and was renamed Rhode Island College to reflect expanded curriculum.

Today, RIC provides comprehensive education at the Bachelor's and Master's level, with a focus on Rhode Island residents. Rhode Island College is accredited by the New England Commission of Higher Education, the Council on Social Work Education, National Association of Schools of Art and Design, National Association of Schools of Music, National Association of State Directors of Teacher Education and Certification, National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education, and the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education.

The Budget includes 949.2 FTE positions in FY2026, including 76.0 third-party funded positions, consistent with the FY2025 Budget as Enacted. As of February 10, RIC has about one third of their allotted FTE positions vacant, with a total of 672.4 FTE positions (71.0 percent) filled.



Major Issues and Trends

RIC's Budget request includes a \$6.9 million increase in tuition and fee revenue compared to the FY2025 Enacted Budget. The Governor includes a \$2.8 million general revenue increase due to realized 7.8 percent increase in enrollment and a net increase of 3.5 percent to tuition.

According to the College, Fall semester enrollment has increased by 6.0 percent compared to recent years, and residence hall occupancy has increased by 20.0 percent. This observed increase in enrollment is connected to the recently enacted Hope Scholarship, which allows eligible full-time students to attend the College at no expense during their junior and senior years. Additionally, RIC has opened new majors in Sports Management, Biotechnology, and Cybersecurity, and opened the new Institute of Cybersecurity and Emerging Technologies, which attracts new students who would otherwise need to attend different colleges to study these fields. Additionally, RIC is investing in its infrastructure through the renovation and opening of the new Cybersecurity building, and new athletic fields. Due to the increase in enrollment, the College requested \$1.7 million for student aid.

Revenue Initiatives	Change
State Appropriation	\$2.4
Tuition and Fee Revenue	6.9
Other	(0.5)
Total	\$8.8

rounding.

Expenditure Request	Change
Personnel investment	\$4.7
Operating Expenditures	2.0
Capital	0.4
Student Aid	1.7
Total	\$8.8

\$ in million. Totals may not add due to rounding.

Of the \$8.8 million increase requested, excluding debt service for general obligation bonds, the Budget includes \$4.7 million for personnel adjustments and \$1.7 million for student aid, \$2.0 million in operating expenditures, and \$400,000 in capital expenditures.

RIC’s Budget request includes two strategic initiatives, totaling \$1.9 million in general revenue expenditures, focusing on improving workforce readiness, academic success, higher student retention, and higher four-year graduation rates.

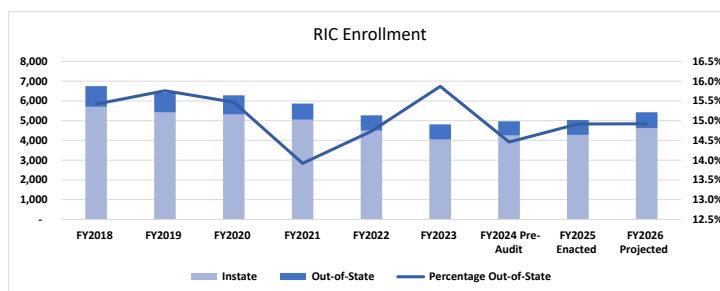
- **RIC Enhancing Academic Support to Deliver Stronger Retention and Graduation (\$1.1 million):** Rhode Island College proposes a general revenue increase of \$1.1 million to support 8.0 new FTE positions, consisting of peer mentors, tutors, and supplemental instructional costs. According to the College, the Hope Scholarship has increased enrollment, exceeding historical enrollment numbers. Additionally, the Hope scholarship sets forth academic standards in line with a four-year graduation goal. To ensure that students’ academic needs are met, the College proposes these 8.0 FTE positions to support multilingual learners, enhance STEM Support, provide writing support, increase tutoring for healthcare programs, and enhance student presentation and public speaking skills. The positions are as follows:
 - 3.0 Coordinator (\$98,852 each)
 - 5.0 Success Coach (\$87,597 each)

- **RIC Career and Workforce Readiness for All Students (\$763,100):** Rhode Island College proposes a general revenue increase of \$763,100 for 7.0 new FTE positions to support the College’s Career Development Center. In 2023, the College retained leaders from the National Association of Colleges and Employers (NACE) to conduct an external review of the Career and Development Center. The review recommended to enhance services across four area; career counseling, student employment, experiential learning, and employer relations. RIC is also implementing a career advising model that links students’ program of study to possible careers from the beginning of their studies. To implement this model, RIC requires 7.0 new FTE positions to foster stronger relationships with both RIC students and employers.
 - 1.0 Assistant Director (\$127,518)
 - 1.0 Academic Advisor (\$87,597)
 - 5.0 Career Specialists (\$87,597 each)

The Governor’s budget does not include any initiatives proposed by Rhode Island College, nor does the Governor propose any additional initiatives.

Enrollment

Total enrollment is projected to be 5,422 full-time equivalent students in FY2026, an increase of 394 students, or 7.8 percent, relative to FY2025 Enacted enrollment, and an increase of 172 students, or 3.1 percent from the FY2025 Revised level. This enrollment projection represents estimates related to the Hope Scholarship, which was passed in the FY2024 Enacted Budget, as well as, the opening of the Institute of Cybersecurity and Emerging Technologies, which was authorized by the FY2025 Enacted Budget.



Rhode Island College	General Revenue
FY2025 Enacted	\$77,881,228
<i>Target and Other Adjustments</i>	
	-
State Appropriation	2,811,886
General Obligation Debt Service	(245,056)
FY2026 Governor	\$80,448,058

State Appropriation **\$2.8 million**

The Budget includes \$2.8 million in increased general revenue support (\$70.4 million total), excluding G.O. bond debt service. Of these funds, \$710,342 will finance the 4.0 percent cost of living adjustment (COLA) for eligible non-union employees due to the most recent contract negotiations; \$1.5 million will support rising costs for personnel and operating expenditures; \$874,069 will fund career readiness, career placement, internships, and work-based learning; and \$95,773 will fund centralized services.

General Obligation Debt Service **(\$245,056)**

The Budget provides \$7.9 million in FY2026 general obligation debt service at RIC funded by general revenue. This is a decrease of \$245,056 relative to FY2025 Enacted. FY2025 Revised includes a total of \$8.1 million in FY2025 Revised, consistent with FY2025 Enacted.

	Debt Service				FY2026 Governor	Change from Enacted	
	FY2025 Enacted	FY2025 Revised					
University of Rhode Island	\$31,664,061	\$31,664,061	-	-	\$31,526,482	(\$137,579)	-0.4%
Rhode Island College	8,178,392	8,178,392	-	-	7,933,336	(245,056)	-3.0%
Community College of Rhode Island	1,054,709	1,054,709	-	-	1,097,898	43,189	4.1%
Total	\$40,897,162	\$40,897,162	-	-	\$40,557,716	(\$339,446)	-0.8%

Source: Rhode Island Budget Office

COMMUNITY COLLEGE OF RHODE ISLAND (CCRI)

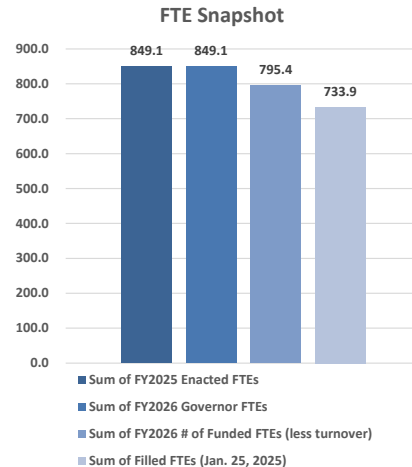
Expenditures By Source	FY2025 Enacted	FY2025 Revised	Change from Enacted		FY2026 Governors	Change from Enacted	
General Revenue	\$62.3	\$62.5	\$0.2	0.4%	\$65.6	\$3.4	5.4%
Restricted Receipts	0.8	0.9	0.1	13.7%	1.0	0.1	17.0%
Other Funds	132.8	143.8	11.0	8.3%	146.1	13.3	10.0%
Total	\$195.9	\$207.3	\$11.3	5.8%	\$212.7	\$16.8	8.5%

\$ in millions. Totals may vary due to rounding.

The Community College of Rhode Island (CCRI) was established by the General Assembly in 1960 as Rhode Island Junior College. The first class of 325 students enrolled at a temporary Providence location in the fall of 1964. CCRI has provided a variety of career, technical, and academic programs and has established partnerships with businesses and non-profit organizations to provide worker training.

Today, CCRI has four main campuses: the 205-acre Knight Campus in Warwick; the 300-acre Flanagan Campus in Lincoln; the 7-acre Liston Campus in downtown Providence; and the 5-acre Newport County Campus in Newport. In addition, CCRI holds classes in the Westerly Higher Education and Industry Center.

The Budget includes 849.1 FTE positions in FY2025 and FY2026, including 89.0 third-party funded FTE positions, consistent with the enacted level.



Major Issues and Trends

CCRI’s budget request includes an 8.5 percent increase in tuition and mandatory fees, with total tuition and fee revenue estimated to increase by \$4.7 million (8.5 percent) from the FY2025 Enacted level, or \$2.9 million (5.0 percent) from the FY2025 Revised level. The state appropriation request increases by \$2.9 million (17.0 percent) to \$63.9 million.

The expenditure request includes \$4.7 million in expenditures to support current services.

- **Student Aid:** \$400,000 is consistent with the tuition and fee increases at the College. For FY2026, student aid and waivers are expected to be 4.9 percent of the tuition and fee revenue.
- **Personnel Investment:** \$3.7 million is requested to support contractually obligated salaries and COLAs, as well as a placeholder for ongoing negotiations.
- **Technology and Other Operating:** \$700,000 is requested to expand to a cloud-based data system and upgrade financial reporting systems.

**Community College of Rhode Island
FY2026 Budget Request**

<i>Change to FY2025 Budget as Enacted</i>	
Revenue Initiatives	Request
Tuition and Fees	\$2.9
State Appropriation ¹	2.1
Total	\$4.9
<i>Expenditure Request</i>	
Expenditure Request	Request
Student Aid	\$0.4
Personnel investment	3.7
Technology and Other Operating	0.7
Total	\$4.7

¹ Does not include G.O. bond debt service.
\$ in millions

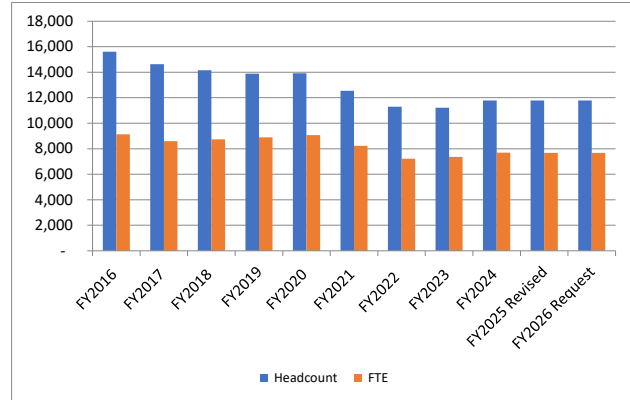
The Governor recommends an increase of \$3.4 million in general revenue funding, excluding G.O. debt service, exceeding the requested expenditure increase by \$1.3 million. The Budget includes initiatives set forth by the Governor, which includes CCRI- Ready to Build, and Higher Education Institutions Career Readiness.

- **Higher Education Institution Career Readiness (\$391,175):** The Budget includes \$391,175 in general revenue to support CCRI’s portion of the Higher Education Institution Career Readiness, which provides funding dedicated to career readiness, career placement, internships, and work-based learning.
- **CCRI- Ready to Build (\$800,000):** The Budget includes \$800,000 in FY2026 to launch CCRI- Ready to Build, a pre-apprenticeship pathway to building trades. According to the College, Ready to Build is currently in the design phase, developing an intensive training program aimed at providing HS grads, young adults/adult job seekers with a thorough introduction to the construction industry. Participants will be instructed utilizing an industry-developed and approved

pre-apprenticeship curriculum, the multi-craft core curriculum (MC3). Coursework will prepare students for union apprenticeships in the building trades, apprenticeships or entry-level opportunities in residential construction or positions in construction-related.

Enrollment

Year	Headcount		FTE %	
	Headcount	% Change	FTE	Change
FY2016	15,611	-6.6%	9,128	-7.6%
FY2017	14,624	-6.3%	8,593	-5.9%
FY2018	14,155	-3.2%	8,732	1.6%
FY2019	13,878	-2.0%	8,899	1.9%
FY2020	13,923	0.3%	9,065	1.9%
FY2021	12,549	-9.9%	8,231	-9.2%
FY2022	11,290	-10.0%	7,224	-12.2%
FY2023	11,223	-0.6%	7,365	2.0%
FY2024	11,777	4.9%	7,698	4.5%
FY2025 Revised	11,777	0.0%	7,679	-0.2%
FY2026 Request	11,777	0.0%	7,679	0.0%
10-Year Average	12,962	-3.0%	8,208	-2.1%



The table shows the actual student enrollment, both by headcount and by FTE, from 2016 through 2026, and a projection for 2025 and 2026. In FY2026, the College expects enrollment to be level with the FY2025 Revised levels.

Community College of Rhode Island	General Revenue
FY2025 Enacted	\$62,286,538
<i>Target and Other Adjustments</i>	-
State Appropriation	2,117,342
Higher Education Institution Career Readiness	391,175
CCRI- Ready to Build	800,000
General Obligation Debt Service	43,189
FY2026 Governor	\$65,638,244

State Appropriation **\$2.1 million**

State general revenue support for CCRI increases by \$2.1 million in FY2026 to a total of \$65.6 million, excluding general obligation bond debt service. Of these funds; 668,135 will finance the 4.0 percent cost of living adjustment (COLA) for eligible non-union employees due to the most recent contract negotiations; \$1.4 million will support rising costs for personnel and operating expenditure; and \$59,244 will fund centralized services.

Higher Education Institution Career Readiness **\$391,175**

CCRI- Ready to Build **\$800,000**

General Obligation Debt Service **\$43,189**

The Budget provides \$1.1 million in FY2026 for general obligation debt service at CCRI funded by general revenue. This is an increase of \$43,189 from FY2025 Enacted. FY2025 Revised includes \$1.0 million, consistent with FY2025 Enacted levels.

	Debt Service					
	FY2025 Enacted	FY2025 Revised	Change from Enacted		FY2026 Governor	Change from Enacted
University of Rhode Island	\$31,664,061	\$31,664,061	-	-	\$31,526,482	(\$137,579) -0.4%
Rhode Island College	8,178,392	8,178,392	-	-	7,933,336	(245,056) -3.0%
Community College of Rhode Island	1,054,709	1,054,709	-	-	1,097,898	43,189 4.1%
Total	\$40,897,162	\$40,897,162	-	-	\$40,557,716	(\$339,446) -0.8%

Source: Rhode Island Budget Office

CAPITAL PROJECTS

The Budget includes a total of \$129.9 million in capital expenditures from Rhode Island Capital Plan (RICAP) funds in FY2026 and \$121.8 million in FY2025, including the following.

- **URI, RIC, CCRI – Asset Protection:** Asset Protection projects are budgeted from Rhode Island Capital Plan funds (RICAP) and are used to maintain and repair facilities, including roads, buildings, and infrastructure. The asset protection program includes a number of projects at various facilities, and allows each school to shift funding based on current priorities. In FY2026, there is a total of \$24.1 million, including \$14.6 million in RICAP asset protection funding for URI, \$5.9 million for RIC, and \$3.5 million for CCRI. In FY2025, the Budget includes a total of \$30.6 million in asset protection funding for URI (\$14.1 million), RIC (\$12.5 million), and CCRI (\$4.1 million).
- **URI Academic Mechanical, Electrical, and Plumbing:** The Budget provides \$7.9 million in FY2026, and \$10.3 million to provide new HVAC systems in Fogarty and White Hall. The total project cost is \$14.2 million. Fogarty Hall, currently housing the Crime Lab and Nutrition and Food Science Department, will be renovated for administrative and academic departments. Substantial renovations will address the building envelope, mechanical systems, HVAC, as well as removing laboratory fixtures and associated utilities. White Hall, currently housing the College of Nursing, requires the upgrade of obsolete building systems and building envelope improvements, including foundation waterproofing, a drainage system, and minor cosmetic improvements.
- **URI Fire Protection Academic Phase 2:** The Budget includes \$1.6 million in FY2026, and \$3.5 million in FY2025, toward the total cost of \$16.5 million in all funds (\$5.4 million in RICAP funds) to provide safety improvements. This project involves the installation of fire-suppressing sprinkler systems, the upgrade/replacement of existing fire alarm systems, and safety improvements in academic and administrative buildings in order to comply with changes in the State Fire Code. This phase will also provide a central bank of generators to provide the necessary power back up to allow the University to shelter in place during prolonged power outages. Phase I (\$25.8 million) of this project was completed in December 2016.
- **URI – Narragansett Bay Campus:** In addition to the \$100.0 million general obligation bond which was approved in November 2022, the Budget provides \$8.1 million in FY2026, and \$10.3 million in FY2025, toward repairs and construction on the Narragansett Bay Campus in support of education and research for the marine disciplines.
- **URI PFAS Water Treatment Plant:** The Budget includes \$13.8 million in FY2026, and \$4.8 million in FY2025, toward the total cost of \$21.7 million to construct a permanent water treatment plant to address the University’s elevated per- and polyfluorinated substances (PFAS) levels. Originally, these funds were identified as ARPA SFRF funding; however, the University’s capital improvement plan timetable put these time-sensitive funds at risk of being reclaimed by the federal government, instead the project will be completely funded through RICAP funds
- **URI – Athletics Complex Renewal:** The Budget provides \$33.9 million in RICAP funds in FY2026, and \$9.7 million in FY2025, for the renovation of the Meade Stadium East Grandstands and the Slade

Outdoor Track and Field. Total funding for the project is \$83.1 million over three years, including \$61.8 million in RICAP funds.

- **Stormwater Management:** The Budget \$4.3 million in FY2026, and \$444,591 in FY2025 to support stormwater improvements to existing drainage systems. According to the University, current infrastructure frequently exceeds during major flooding events, resulting in erosion and flooding to the downstream landscapes and buildings. Total estimates for the project are \$4.4 million.
- **URI- Campus Accessibility (new project):** The Budget includes \$2.3 million in RICAP funds to support campus accessibility. This fund would provide dedicated resources to improve campus access to persons with disabilities. Projects include restroom improvements, exterior pedestrian improvements, and discrete building improvements such as elevator modernizations. The project will focus on the adaptation of existing infrastructure to comply with ADA. Total costs for the project are estimated to be \$7.0 million.
- **OPC – WEC Expansion – Annex Site:** The Budget \$1.2 million in FY2026, to expand the RI Education Center model to Northern RI. The Woonsocket Education Center, which opened August 2022, is designed to address gaps in education and workforce development training in Northern RI. According to the Office, the demand for use of the Center has increased significantly, requiring more classroom space to accommodate employers. Due to delays in construction and development, the funding for the Annex Site has shifted to FY2026, with an estimated completion date of FY2026.
- **RIC – Phase III Master Plan:** Phase III of the Master Plan at RIC will complete major renovations to the Clarke Science Building, which houses the Department of Physical Sciences. The building includes several labs, two lecture halls, classrooms, and faculty offices. In March 2021, voters approved a \$38.0 million general obligation bond for this project. In addition to the bond proceeds, the Budget provides \$20.0 million in RICAP funds, including \$5.4 million in FY2025. The project has an anticipated completion date in FY2025, and has been removed from the Colleges FY2026 Capital improvement plan.
- **RIC Infrastructure Modernization:** The Budget provides \$11.6 million in RICAP funding in FY2025 and \$5.7 million in FY2026 to modernize and replace steam lines, water lines, and the electrical distribution system across the RIC campus. Improvements will address issues of water quality, limit power failures, and eliminate steam plumes throughout the campus.
- **Phase IV: Whipple, Fogarty, and Adams Library:** The Budget provides \$500,000 in FY2025 to support the renovation of Whipple Hall, Fogarty Hall, and the Adams Library, and estimated to cost a total of \$233.5 million, which will be funded through a series of general obligation bonds, included on statewide referendum’s in 2024, 2026, and 2028. The State is expected to contribute a total of \$500,000 in RICAP funds for Whipple Hall only. The following table illustrates expected expenditures for the Capital Improvement Project.

		FY2025 Budget	FY2026 Budget	FY2027 Budget	FY2028 Budget	FY2029 Budget	FY2030 Budget	Post FY2030 Budget	Total
Whipple Hall									
	Bond	-	\$1.5	\$37.0	\$345.0	-	-	-	
	RICAP	\$0.5	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Total									\$384.0
Fogarty Life Sciences Building									
	Bond	-	-	\$0.5	\$1.5	\$43.0	\$40.0		
Total									\$85.0
Adam's Library									
	Bond	-	-	-	-	\$0.5	\$1.5	\$73.0	
Total									\$75.0

in millions.

- **RIC Infrastructure Modernization:** The Budget includes \$11.6 million in FY2025, and \$5.7 million in FY2026. The project addresses campus-wide issues relating to heat, lighting, cooling, and delivery of

critical utility systems. Repeated utility system and infrastructure failures demonstrate that these systems require modernization. Estimates total \$76.6 million through FY2030.

- **CCRI Flanagan Campus Renewal (Lincoln):** The Budget provides \$5.7 million in FY2025, and \$3.2 million in FY2026 for the renewal of the Flanagan Campus in Lincoln. This \$12.5 million project includes the modernization and code compliance upgrades to all of the science labs at the Lincoln campus, as well as the refurbishment of the exterior including heat resistance paint, window replacement, and light abatement.
- **CCRI Data, Cabling, and Power Infrastructure:** The Budget provides \$5.1 million in FY2026 and \$4.5 million in FY2025 to assess, design, and construct a modernized data cabling and power infrastructure across the four CCRI campuses. The project will upgrade network wiring infrastructure and deliver more capacity to support additional classroom technology, wireless devices and security systems, including cameras, emergency alarm systems, and HVAC control systems.
- **CCRI Renovation and Modernization Phase I:** The Budget includes \$16.0 million in FY2025 and \$13.0 million in FY2026 to modernize academic and student support spaces. The project is estimated to cost a total of \$59.5 million where \$12.0 million derive from general obligation bonds, approved in March 2021, and \$47.5 million from RICAP funds.
- **CCRI Renovation and Modernization Phase II-IV:** The Budget includes \$6.1 million in RICAP funds in FY2026. This project, which is estimated to cost a total of \$147.7 million in both RICAP and general obligations funds, will begin the construction processes of the project. Specifically, in FY2026, and FY2027, the project will focus in HVAC, electrical, and foundational repairs at the Warwick and Providence campuses.
- **CCRI Accessibility Improvements:** The Budget includes \$6.1 million in FY2026 to support projects addressing ADA compliance issues. While there is a current project bid related to the Lincoln campus bathrooms, the College proposes addressing other ADA non-compliant areas across all four campuses. The project is estimated to cost a total of \$1.9 million.